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LETTER DATED 7 SEPTEMBER 1995 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions of my Government, I am writing to express utmost concern regarding the inconsistencies displayed by the competent authorities within the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in establishing the facts following the explosion in the vicinity of the Markale market in Sarajevo, whereupon many civilians were killed or wounded.

The unusually prompt investigation and the report of the United Nations officials on the ground singled out the Bosnian Serb side as the one responsible for this crime. The initiative of the political authorities of the Republic of Srpska and the Commander of the Bosnian Serb Army, General Mladić, that a joint commission consisting of the representatives of the United Nations, the Serb side and the Muslim side be set up, was rejected. The events that followed culminated in the unprecedented and relentless "retaliation" of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) forces against the Bosnian Serbs with far-reaching and serious consequences, loss of life and extensive material damage.

Scepticism relating to the UNPROFOR reports has been especially heightened following the explicit report of Colonel Demurenko, in which it is said that the culprits for the "Markale crime 2" should not be sought on the Serb side, i.e., that the chances that the Serbs were responsible are only theoretical, with a 1:1,000,000 margin.

According to the Reuters news agency report No. 52176 of 2 September 1995, the statement made for the press by Lieutenant-Colonel Chris Vernon of 2 September 1995 further corroborates those suspicions. It says that "Demurenko is not the only one to have challenged the official version of the event". During the same press conference, C. Vernon also indicated that there were a number of reports of vital importance for establishing the facts that reached United Nations Headquarters, including the one made by the officers in Sarajevo and two originating from the United States of America, but those were never revealed.

It should be recalled that this is not the first time that such events are being orchestrated on the eve of crucial negotiations on the establishment of

peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina or important decisions for the resolution of the crisis in those territories. For example, the shelling of Sarajevo following the so-called "breadline incident" in May 1992, the explosion in the Sarajevo cemetery during the funeral of orphans in August 1992 and the shelling of the Markale market in February 1994 were aimed at undermining the resumption of the peace process and providing an excuse for those who advocate the war option. It should be emphasized that the culprits for any of the above tragic incidents have not been definitely identified, that the UNPROFOR reports at the time have been questioned by the experts and severely criticized as dubious by the world media. Most importantly, they have never been publicized. Nevertheless, then as today, an in-depth investigation by joint teams of experts has never been conducted. However, without clear-cut proofs, the retaliatory measures against the Bosnian Serbs were undertaken as well as against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia by introducing the sanctions against it.

In view of the above facts, the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia demands that the investigation to establish the true culprits for the latest shelling in the vicinity of the Markale market, which served as a pretext for the unprecedented NATO air strikes against the Bosnian Serb military and civilian targets, be immediately initiated and that all reports which reached the United Nations in this regard be circulated and made public with a view to establishing the accurate facts.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIĆ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.